

REMARKS**I. APPLICANTS' INVENTION**

The present invention relates to an implantable electrode provided with a thin, porous, wettable polymeric covering. The electrode covering of the present invention tightly conforms to the external profile of an electrode, which minimizes air gaps and voids. The electrode covering is relatively thin, preferably less than 0.13 mm thick, and is treated to enhance rapid wetting by bodily fluids. The combination of minimal air gaps, tight conformance to the electrode, wettability and porosity of the thin covering, allows repeated, high energy electrical discharges to be transmitted without significant bubble formation, sparking or degradation of the covering. In addition, the electrode covering of the present invention has pore sizes tailored to minimize cellular ingrowth and tissue attachment thereby allowing a less traumatic removal of the electrode after implantation if extraction becomes necessary, for example due to infection or electrode dislodgment.

II. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claims 1-46 and 48-51 are presently pending in the application, claim 47 having been previously canceled. Claims 1-41 were stated in the previous paper to be allowed, while claims 42-46 and 48-51 were rejected in that paper.

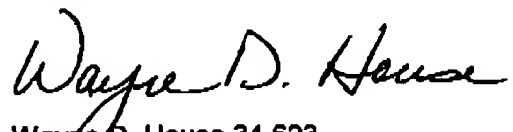
III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 42-46 AND 48-51 UNDER 35 USC 102(e) AS ANTICIPATED BY STEINHAUS et al., US PATENT 6,546,292.

Claims 42-46 and 48-51 are rejected as anticipated by the commonly assigned Steinhaus et al. reference (which includes two named inventors that are common to the present application). Steinhaus et al. teach the construction of various covered leads intended for use as pacing leads and do not teach high voltage constructions. The Examiner notes that while the preamble of claim 42 (from which all of the other rejected claims depend) recites that the claim is directed to an implantable defibrillation lead; there is no such limitation in the body of the claim. Claim 42 is currently amended to include such a limitation. The specification is replete with basis for this amendment, to include the title of the application as well as the originally filed claim preamble. As amended, the claim is not anticipated by Steinhaus et al. and is accordingly patentable.

CONCLUSION

The applicants believe that their claims as amended are in good and proper form and are patentable over the cited art. As such, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration, allowance of the presently-rejected claims and passage of the case to issuance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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